



News Release

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DROPPING SNAKE RIVER FLOW LEVELS
PROMPTS WARNING TO SOME WATER USERS

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Dropping flow levels on the Snake River near Murphy have prompted state water managers to issue warnings to almost 130 Snake River water users that they may be required to stop diverting water from so that the state can meet minimum flow levels requirements contained in the Swan Falls Agreement with Idaho Power Company, the Idaho Department of Water Resources announced today.

IDWR says the current drought conditions in Eastern Idaho may result in the Snake River falling below 3,900 cubic feet per second flow levels at the Murphy river gauging station. The 3,900 CFS flow level is the level set in the Swan Falls agreement and is guaranteed by a senior priority water right with a priority date of July 1, 1985 held by Idaho Power.

This afternoon (Wednesday June 23) at 1 p.m. the river was flowing at approximately 4,427 CFS at the Murphy gauging station. Flow levels in the Snake River at the Murphy gauge are typically the lowest during June and July. Real time flow data is available on the Internet at **www.idahopower.com/riversrec/waterlevels/streamflow/showgraph.cfm**

A letter from IDWR to the junior priority water users states: "Your water right bears a later priority date than July 1, 1985, the priority date for the minimum stream flow. As a result, if the flow falls below 3,900 cfs, the department will send you another letter advising you to cease diversion of water."

The Swan Falls flow level agreement was completed in the mid-1980s between the state and Idaho Power Company as part of an agreement to resolve a lawsuit by the Company against the state. That same agreement also initiated the on-going Snake River Basin Adjudication.